

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, September 19. 1706.

WHEN I view the Rejoycing of the People on receiving this glorious News from *France*, it puts me in Mind of the *Romans* and *Gracians*; who upon their great Victories instituted their Feasts and Games in Honour of their Atcheivments, and as a Tribute to their Gods—But which Games and Feasts were celebrated by the Priests with all Manner of Ceremony and Devotion; but by the People, with all the Variety of Luxury and Excess.

This puts me in Mind of a Passage lately to which being an Ear Witness, I can more plainly give Testimony, as to Fact, and the Gentleman concern'd, since I name him not, may take it for a Reproof to his Folly, not an exposing of his Person.

When first the News of a Victory in *Italy*

came to Town by the Uncertainty of Ship-News, an Intelligence we have been often deceiv'd by, and People in Suspense about the Truth, afraid to believe, and yet loth so much good Hope should be lost—

The Question in all Company was, Well, what d'ye think of this News? — Why, brave News, glorious News, says the Answerer, if it be but true; well, *Fact*, says Mr. A. we shall know by *Tuesday*, I'll warrant thee, prithee let's meet and be merry. *Faith*, *Tom*, says B. I'll do my Part, I am resolv'd, I'll be drunk every Day next Week, if this News be true; D—m ye, the French King will be pull'd down presently, if this News holds, and then, Boys, we shall have brave Times?

Now had this Person been as good a Christian, as he is an Englishman, his Dialect

left had been of another Kind, and his Rejoycing been better express'd than by Drunkenness and Swearing; and this brings me to the Subject I would speak to.

Unhappy *England*! that even those very Men, whose Eyes are open enough to see the National Benefit of the War, and who are sensible of their Advantages in the Effects of Victory, that have Sense enough to hate Tyranny, abhor *French* Government, and rejoyce in the Downfall of the *French* Power, and yet have not Sense enough to look up to the Hand, that gives the Blessing; but finding a Necessity to be thankful to some body, or other, forget their Maker, and sacrifice to the Devil—

Is it possible, that human Reason can dictate such mean Ideas of Providence and infinite Power; as to make Men believe, those very Excesses, which provoke Heaven to destroy other Nations, should be a due Return, or the best Method of giving him Thanks for delivering ours?

Intolerable Ignorance! how can such Men reflect upon the Darkneſs of *Indian* and *American* Natives; who worship the various Idols of every Nation according to the several Customs of their Ancestors, unguided and uninstructed, but by their own and their Fathers dark Light; yet even these Nations are guilty of no such Absurdity, as this! To be wicked by way of Gratitude, to affront their Maker because of his Favours, and in order to acknowledge his Mercies, doubly provoke him! to be superlatively vile by way of Sacrifice for superlative Goodness! 'tis hard to find a Simily to express the horrid Contradiction, or an Allegory to illustrate it!

Were this practis'd by some that did not acknowledge the Blessing, it might yet have some Allay, were it some *Non-jurant* Jacobite; some self-denying suffering High-Flyer; were it somebody that in outward Appearance rejoyc'd, having taken the Oaths for some Place of Preferment, but inwardly hated the Government, and wish'd the Restoration of Tyrants, and the Descent of Slavery by Blood; were it some Passive Obedience Slave, or some non-resisting *Salisbury* Hero — Something might have been said to allay the Censure, they might

run into Excesses to divert their Melancholly, and drink *Lustick*, as the *Dutch* call it, to drive away the Chagrin from their Thoughts.

Or they might have been look'd upon as Men in Despair, and ought to be pity'd as Lunatics—Who when a farther Series of Successes shall have quite sunk their long since abortive Expectations, and they shall be reduc'd again to their Sences, will see the Folly, and reform the Practice.

But that Men, who rejoyce at the Victory, own 'tis the Gift of Heaven, claim an Interest in the Benefit of it, and are sincerely pleas'd with the good Success; that know the Interest of their Country, and freely open their Purses to carry on the War; that these Men, when Heaven smiles on them, should return the highest Insults, when Providence fights for them, should take up Arms against him, when they should give Thanks to their Maker, begin it by blaspheming his Name——What shall be said in such a Case?

Murdering of Fathers, Ravishing Daughters, and all the most odious Crimes that can be reckon'd up, come short of the Extravagancies of this Practice; 'tis like a Prisoners cutting the Throat of him that delivers him; or a Felon, Repriev'd at the Gallows, flying in the Face of him that brings him the Warrant; 'tis like Clergymen teaching People to Swear; 'tis like every thing that is more than usually Horrid and Provoking.

Nor am I concern'd to ask pardon of the Person that offer'd this, tho' his Quality may demand it; I conceal his Name, in respect to him, and in hopes of his Reformation——But I cannot spare the Crime, and as 'tis a Coat will fit too many of those otherwise honest Gentlemen, who, in their Sence of the Publick Affairs, stand right with the Interest of their Country, yet thoughtless of their Countries Sovereign Protector, at the same time they accept his Blessings, defy his Being, and Dishonour him in their Behaviour; I humbly recommend it to their Consideration, to Correct that Error, which if not Corrected, will certainly provoke Heaven to remove his favour from this Generation,

or this Generation from his favour.

Having thus, I hope, not improperly Animadverted upon the Extravagance of my Friend, not as his only, but as 'tis too much the Mode of the Day; I come to the other part of his Discourse; *Viz. The French King will be pull'd down presently, and we shall have Glorious Times, Boys.*

And, really Gentlemen, I see but two things to hinder this being true. 1. Provoking Heaven to turn the Scale upon us, for our ill behaving in the view of his Goodness, and of *this I have said my share*; I recommend the rest to the *Men of the Gown* to improve it. 2. Our distinction among our selves, and Robbing one another of the Effects of these Successes, by unnatural Feuds, and Breaches, and Divisions one among another — This is a wide Field, and has been often launched into, to less purpose than one would think it should; but as 'tis of infinite Value to us, it cannot be too often repeated.

Not that I am in Pain for the Progress of our Arms abroad, in spite of all the Malice of our People at home; the utmost Attempts of a-Party, either to retard Preparations, hinder Supplies, or embroil us so at home, that we should not be able to carry on our Affairs abroad, have hitherto, blessed be God, prov'd abortive, and every thing has gone on, not contrary to their Endeavours only, but contrary to their Expectations.

But what is this owing to, 'tis because we have a General abroad, that is not to be hindred by ill Treatment from doing his Duty to his Native Country; that serves these very People that ill treat him, even while they are doing it; that contemning their Rage and ill Nature, as an empty Folly not worth his Notice, delivers them from foreign Tyranny even against their Wills — And they shall be deliver'd, whether they like it or no; and if *not they*, their Posterity will bless him for it.

Yet after all, tho' we are not in such Danger from Disunion and Discontents among our selves, that Enemy being pretty well Conquer'd at Home; 'tis nevertheless amazing, that any Men should be

found in a Christian Country; in a Nation, that has spent so much to pull down French Power — That any should be left, I say, that should Repine at our Successes, and grudge us the Liberty and Prosperity, the downfall of France shall bring us; that should be afraid of a Peace, so fatal to their Confederates the French; that he should be disabled from assisting their Projects, against the Peace of their own Country, and from being a Curb and Terror to their own Religion and Sovereign.

Of such I can only say this, as they are very singular, they are the only People who do not Rejoyce at this Glorious News, so they seem to me to be finishing the Destruction of their sinking Cause, by Exasperating the whole Nation against them, by opening the Eyes, even of them that were born Blind in this respect, to see what unaccountable People they are, and how plainly they act against the Interest and Peace of England, and their own Security.

The present Successes Abroad, are Matter of double Joy to England on this very Account, That they vanquish a growing Party at home, at the same time, that they subdue a daring Enemy abroad; 'tis a double Glory to Her Majesty; Peace at Home rises out of War Abroad: Thus the old Motto is made good; *Pax quaritur Bello*; the Clouds vanish here, as the Sword of War prevails there.

The Prosperity that shall follow, will be like the Plenty at *Samarita*, and as unexpected in its Circumstances; and I cannot refrain advising those Gentlemen that slight it, to have a care, lest like the Elders there, their Eyes should see it; but God in his Providence should determine, that for their Ingratitude they should be deny'd to taste of it.

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* * * She's removed to the *Golden-Ball* in *Hand-Court*, against great *Turn-stile*, *Holborn*.

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